

Rita Kirkman Pastel Workshop Supply List

Pastels:

Bring whatever you have that you are used to using.

If you are starting with none, I recommend the [Dakota Pastel Samplers](#), or the “[Tastiest Pastel Samplers](#)” from [fineartstore.com](#). These are several sticks from different professional brands. They come in different color groupings. This is the best way to try different brands to see which you like best, as they all have their own ‘feel’. Some other good options are half-stick sets. Many brands have these now for the budget-conscious.

My favorite brands are Terry Ludwig, Girault, Unison and Diane Townsend. I have a few staple colors in my palette including Girault #376 (my dark brown), Terry Ludwig Eggplant (V100) (my rich black), and Diane Townsend terrages #069 (my warm white)

2 or 3 warm (brown or sepia or orange) pastel pencils in mid-values and a dark value, for your drawing.

Surfaces:

We will use warm-toned pastel primers brushed onto Gatorboard to create an underpainting. I will have some small extra pieces of Gatorboard primed with the first layer of the gold primer, reasonably priced. If you want to bring your own, you can get Gatorboard online (sometimes called Gator Foam Board. Be sure it has “gator” in the name, and get the 3/16” thickness, in white.)

Primers: I will be using the [Golden brand Fine Pumice Gel](#) with [nickel azo gold acrylic color](#) added, followed with [Art Spectrum pastel primer in Terra Cotta](#). I will be sharing my primers, but if you want to bring your own, bring a short, squat jam or babyfood jar and I will show you how to mix the gold color.

If you prefer to use paper rather than Gatorboard, my underpainting method also works well on smooth (hot-pressed) watercolor paper or medium to heavy weight smooth bond. You would stretch these like watercolor paper before using the primers. If using papers, it may be best to stretch and tape your papers ahead of time.

Old bristle brushes or squares of foam sponge for applying the primers.

Photos of your preferred subjects. NOTE: Photos that have a definite light source (sunlight, etc) with visible light and shadow patterns will help you achieve a sense of warm light with the underpainting. I will bring plenty of extra photos as well. With luck you might complete 1-2 paintings each day of the workshop!

Portable easel

Drop cloth for under workspace

Backing board for clipping/taping paper or surface to

Piece of tin foil or stiff paper for ‘dust-catcher’ under board (same width as board)

Old rag, paper towels, clips, masking tape, scissors

Wet wipes for cleaning hands, a ‘barrier’ type lotion or latex gloves if preferred.

2 “L” shaped pieces of an old matt board no smaller than your photos. For cropping your pics.

Optional: Pencil and ruler for gridding your photo if you need assistance with your drawing.

Optional: and/or some sheets of white copy paper for sketching your composition to size

Optional: Electronic tablet for viewing your digital photos

Optional: Paper plate(s) for borrowing my primers.

Glassine pieces for covering your pastel paintings

Apron/smock to protect clothes (or just wear old painting clothes)

A spirit of adventure!